

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 SSC-01 OMB-01 DPW-01 IO-10

NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /106 W

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R 171137Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4444

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 04328

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINR, LA

SUBJECT: NEW MINISTERS INSTALLED

REF: VIENTIANE 4246

1. SIX NEW MINISTERS AND SECRETARIES-OF-STATE OF THE PGNU -- FIVE NEWLY APPOINTED TO THE CABINET AND ONE WHO SWITCHED PORTFOLIOS -- TOOK THEIR OATHS OF OFFICE JUNE 16 IN THE TRADITIONAL MANNER AT WAT ONG TU IN VIENTIANE. IN ADDITION TO THE FIVE MENTIONED IN REFTEL, DR. (TIAO) JAISAVATH VISOUTHIPHONG WAS THERE TO BECOME MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH. (HIS OMISSION FROM THE JUNE 13 LAO PRESSE LIST, REFTEL, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN INADVERTENT.) IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LEUAM INSISIENG NAY PRESIDED OVER THE CEREMONY. THE NEWLY INSTALLED CABINET MEMBERS WERE TO BE RECEIVED IN LUANG PRABANG ON JUNE 17 BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE KING.

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2. BEST KNOWN IS (PHAGNA) PHENG PHONGSAVAN, WHO WAS

MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND HAS NOW REPLACED SISOUK NA  
CHAMPASSAK AS MINSTER OF DEFENSE. BASIC CAREER DATA  
ON FIVE NEW APPOINTEES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A) (PHAGNA) KHOUN ONE VORAVONG, NEW MINISTER OF INTERIOR  
WHO REPLACES PHENG, WAS BORN IN 1905 IN SEDONE PROVINCE. HE  
HAD A LONG CAREER IN VARIOUS PROVINCIAL JOBS, MOST  
NOTABLY AS GOVERNOR OF PAKSE PROVINCE FROM 1947 TO 1950  
AND GOVERNOR OF SAVANNAKHET FROM 1956 TO 1961. HE WAS  
MINISTER OF JUSTICE FROM 1961 TO 1964 AND HAS BEEN RETIRED  
SINCE. KHOUN ONE IS THE FATHER OF NEW IDEAS PARTY LEADER  
CHANSAMONE VORAVONG.

B) (PHAGNA) LEUAM RAJASOMBATH, MINISTER OF FINANCE, WAS  
BORN IN VIENTIANE IN 1917. HE HAS SPENT MOST OF HIS  
CAREER IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE, SERVING AS AMBASSADOR  
TO CAMBODIA (1956 TO 1957), SOUTH VIETNAM (1960 TO 1961),  
BURMA (1962 TO 1964), THAILAND (1964 TO 1968), AND FRANCE  
1968 TO 1971). HE WAS MINISTER OF FINANCE ONCE BEFOSE\*  
IN 1958-1959. HIS MOST RECENT POSITION WAS AS SECRETARY-  
GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, FROM 1971 UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT  
IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR. ACCORD-  
TO SUBORDINATES, HE SPENT HIS EARLY YEARS IN UBON,  
THAILAND, AND HAS FULL OR HALF-BROTHERS AND SISTERS THERE.  
LEUAM REPLACES NGON SANANIKONE, WHO RESIGNED MORE THAN  
ONE MONTH AGO.

C) DR. (TIAO) JAISAVATH (SOMETIMES SPELLED CHAISAVATH)  
VISOUTHIPHONG, MINISTER OF HEALTH, WAS BORN IN VIENTIANE  
IN 1931. HE SPENT A LARGE PART OF HIS YOUTH IN BANGKOK  
WHERE HE OBTAINED HIS MEDICAL DEGREE FROM CHULA-  
LONGKORN UNIVERSITY IN 1956. HE DID POST-DOCTORAL STUDY  
AT MONTREAL, CANADA, AND RENNES, FRANCE. SINCE THEN HE  
HAS SERVED IN VARIOUS MEDICAL CAPACITIES IN VIENTIANE,  
MOST RECENTLY AS DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES AT THE  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH FROM 1969 UNTIL HIS PRESENT  
APPOINTMENT. HE REPLACES KHAMPHAI ABHAY, WHO DEPARTED  
VIENTIANE MAY 8 FOR A WHO MEETING AND LATER RESIGNED BY  
TELEGRAM.

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D) SOMPHAVANH INTHAVONG, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC  
WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION, WAS BORN IN VIENTIANE IN 1936.  
HIS FATHER IS SOMBOUN INTTIG, # AND IMPORTANT LAO BUSINESS-

MAN. HE COMPLETED HIS SECONDARY EDUCATION IN PARIS AND  
THEN OBTAINED AN ENGINEERING DEGREE FROM THE ECOLE POLY-  
TECHNIQUE AT LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND. SINCE THEN HE HAS  
SUBDTJ #

IN PUBLIC WORKS, THOUGH HE SPENT 1969 TO 1971 IN FRANCE OBTAINING HIS DOCTORATE. FROM 1Q TO MAY OF THIS YEAR HE WAS THE LAO EXPERT AT THE INTERNATIONAL MEKONG COMMITTEE IN BANGKOK. HE REPLACES HOUMPHANH SANASITH,

WHO RESIGNED IN EARLY MAY.

E) KYTHONG VONGSAY, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WAS BORN IN VIENTIANE IN 1937. HE RECEIVED HIS SECONDARY EDUCATION IN VIENTIANE AND THEN SPENT THE PERIOD FROM 1959 TO 1967 IN FRANCE, WHERE HE OBTAINED A DOCTORATE IN LAW. WHEN HE RETURNED TO LAOS HE ENTERED THE FOREIGN SERVICE, FIRST SERVING AS DIRECTOR OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. HE WAS THEN A COUNSELOR AT THE LAO EMBASSY IN PARIS FROM 1970 TO 1973. WHEN HE RETURNED TO VIENTIANE HE WAS REASSIGNED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. FROM JULY 1974 TO HIS PRESENT APPOINTMENT HE HAS BEEN VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE VIENTIANE SIDE DELEGATION TO THE JOINT CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT. KYTHONG RECEIVED THE BRONZE MEDAL OF THE "ORDRE DU REGNE DU LAOS" FROM THE KING ON CONSTITUTION DAY THIS YEAR. HE REPLACES TIANETHONE CHANTARASY, WHO ALSO RESIGNED IN EARLY MAY.  
CHAPMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: # GARBLED TEXT AS RECEIVED

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